

What is Claim d is:

1. A method for sorting a plurality of checks comprising:

reading information from a check of the plurality of checks;

obtaining a sort priority order number for the check from a database using at least a portion of the information read from the check;

sorting the check based on the sort order priority number obtained from the database; and

repeating the reading, obtaining and sorting steps for each of the plurality of checks.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein reading information from the check further comprises:

reading a routing number from the check.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein reading information from the check further comprises:

reading an account number from the check.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein reading information from the check further comprises:

reading a check number from the check.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the sort order priority number is based on a delivery destination for a statement associated with the check.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the sort order priority number is based on a type of account associated with the check.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the sort order priority number is based on processing of the check.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein processing of the check includes whether or not the check will be included with a statement associated with the check.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the sort order priority number is based on an amount of the check.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the sort order priority number is based on a payee of the check.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein reading information from the check further comprises:

placing the plurality of checks in a feeder;

separating the check from the plurality of checks; and

scanning the check to read the information.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein sorting the check further comprises:

placing the check in an appropriate bin based on the sort order priority number.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein obtaining a sort priority order number for the check further comprises:

using at least a portion of the information read from the check as a pointer to obtain the sort priority order number for the check.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of checks include separators.

15. A system for sorting a plurality of checks comprising:

a scanner module to read information from a check;

a controller coupled to the scanner, the controller receiving the information read from the check by the scanner;

a database coupled to the controller, the database storing sort priority order numbers for the plurality of checks, the controller obtaining the sort priority order

number for the check from the database using at least a portion of the information read from the check; and

a sorter coupled to the controller, the sorter receiving the check from the scanner and placing the check into one of a plurality of bins based on the sort order priority number obtained from the database.

16. The system of claim 15, wherein the controller is integral with the sorter.
17. The system of claim 15, wherein the information read from the check includes a routing number.
18. The system of claim 15, wherein the information read from the check includes an account number.
19. The system of claim 15, wherein the information read from the check includes a check number.
20. The system of claim 15, wherein the sort order priority number is based on a delivery destination for a statement associated with the check.
21. The system of claim 15, wherein the sort order priority number is based on a type of account associated with the check.
22. The system of claim 15, wherein the sort order priority number is based on processing of the check.
23. The system of claim 22, wherein processing of the check includes whether or not the check will be included with a statement associated with the check.
24. The system of claim 15, wherein the sort order priority number is based on an amount of the check.
25. The system of claim 15, wherein the sort order priority number is based on a payee of the check.
26. The system of claim 15, further comprising:

a feeder module coupled to the scanner module, the feeder module receiving

the plurality of checks and feeding the plurality of checks seriatim to the scanner module.

27. The system of claim 15, wherein the scanner module is a magnetic ink character recognition scanner.

28. The system of claim 15, wherein the scanner module is an optical character recognition scanner.